



Rural District of Bakewell.

Interim Report of the Medical Officer of Health, Sydney S. Proctor, M.D., D.P.H.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Bakewell Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

My Annual Report for the year 1939 is a very brief interim report in accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health as expressed in Circular 2067.

The number of deaths show an increase over the figures for 1938 and this increase mainly occurs in the age group 60-75 years.

The birth rate appears to remain about the same, but final figures are not yet available.

Progress in housing was gaining impetus until the outbreak of war.

Since September many new problems have arisen, but a successful endeavour has been made to continue the supervision of all the essential health services.

Excluding pneumonia, there has been a definite decline in all notifiable diseases. This decline shows up more sharply when compared with the 1936-37 period.

The evacuation scheme operated in the beginning of September and brought many difficulties. Much trouble and expense could have been avoided had the children been inspected in Manchester. In spite of this lack of supervision it is surprising to find there was no increase in the incidence of infectious disease. Most trouble arose from enuresis, verminous conditions and scabies. Notwithstanding strenuous work by nurses, health visitors and householders, verminous conditions and scabies recurred. This is not surprising when one considers how frequently some children went home for week-ends and how, even more frequently, children were visited by relatives. It is sincerely to be hoped that if and when further evacuation takes place such freedom of movement will be prohibited.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

Medical Officer of Health.

Bath Street,
Bakewell.
July 27th, 1940.

